

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 FEAE-00
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FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6395
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: VORESTER DISCUSSES NEW CONSTITUTIONAL IDEAS
REF C A) PRETORIA 4242; B) CAPE TOWN 1239

SUMMARY: IN PUBLIC SPEECH FOLLOWING CONGRESS OF CAPE NATIONAL PARTY (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL) PRIME MINISTER VORSTER MADE FIRST OFFICIAL PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF "IDEAS" FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES (REF A) AND WARNED FOREIGN POWERS TO STOP DISCRIMINATING AGAINST SA IN NUCLEAR FIELD (REF B). END SUMMARY

1. IN HOUR AND ONE-HALF SPEECH TO OVERFLOW CROWD AT CITY HALL EVENING OF AUGUST 24, PM VORSTER MADE FIRST OFFICIAL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF SOME OF DETAILS OF "IDEAS" FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE. HIS PRESENTATION INCLUDED MOST BUT NOT ALL OF THE DETAILS PRESENTED EARLIER IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH COLORED AND INDIAN LEADERS (REF A) AND TO CAPE NP CONGRESS. VORSTER REFERRED TO THE "IDEAS" (RATHER THAN PROPOSALS) FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES AND

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STRESSED THAT THEY STILL HAD TO BE DISCUSSED BY OTHER PROVINCIAL NP CONGRESSES AND IN FURTHER DETAIL WITH COLORED AND INDIAN LEADERS. HE SAID HE WAS DISCLOSING THE IDEAS PUBLICLY BECAUSE OF "CERTAIN LEAKS," REFERRING TO FACT THAT PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN CONSIDERABLE AND FAIRLY ACCURATE DETAIL IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS.

2. VORSTER CONFIRMED THAT NEW IDEAS DID NOT RPT NOT INCLUDE BLACKS WHO WERE BEING GIVEN OPPORTUNITY FOR POLITICAL SELF-EXPRESSION THROUGH INDEPENDENT HOMELANDS. SAG WAS GIVING URBAN BLACKS NEW POWERS AT LOCAL GOVT LEVEL WHICH, AFTER THEY HAD GAINED EXPERIENCE AND "PROVED THEMSELVES" WOULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE CONTROL OVER EDUCATION AND JUDICIAL MATTERS, THUS GIVING THEM GREATER POWERS THAN WHITE MUNICIPALITIES.

3. VORSTER'S RIDICULE OF BOTH WHITE AND BLACK OPPOSITION PRODUCED ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD RESPONSE. HE SAID SOME PEOPLE HAD THE "AUDACITY" TO EXPECT HIM TO NEGOTIATE WITH SOWETO COMMITTEE OF 10 WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN "CONCOCTED" IN THE OFFICES OF THE SUB-EEI PAPER (EDITED BY PERCY QBOZA, A MEMBER OF COMMITTEE OF 10). VORSTER ALSO RIDICULED LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM PRP HEAD COLIN EGLIN WHICH OBJECTED TO CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS BEING DISCUSSED WITH NP CAUCUS AND "SELECTED JOURNALISTS" BEFORE DISCUSSING WITH PARLIAMENT. VORSTER SAID HE READ TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWING DAY IN THE PRESS. HE SAID EGLIN WOULD RECEIVE DETAILS OF NEW CONSTITUTIONAL IDEAS IN SAME WAY, I.E., THROUGH THE PRESS.

4. ASSURING HIS AUDIENCE THAT NEW CHANGES WOULD GIVE RIGHTS TO WHITES, COLOREDS AND INDIANS AND ASSURE AND PROTECT THEM FOR ALL THREE, VORSTER DAID "THE LIBERAL ESTABLISHMENT" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO "SHOOT THEM DOWN." HE SAID SUCH PEOPLE WANT MAJORITY RULE WHICH MEANS BLACK MAJORITY RULE. THEY SPOKE OF MAKING "PRIVILEGES" OF WHITES AVAILABLE TO ALL, BUT WHITE PEOPLE "HAD WORKED FOR AND EARNED THEIR SO-CALLED PRIVILEGES" WHICH WERE AVAILABLE TO ANYONE ELSE IN SOUTH AFRICA WILLING TO WORK FOR THEM. CROWD RESPONSE WAS PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC AT THAT POINT. VORSTER SAID LIBERAL ESTABLISHMENT ONLY WANTED TO USE COLOREDS AND INDIANS AS TOOL TO BRING DOWN NP GOVT AND CITED EDITORIALS BY TWO OF HIS PARTICULAR "BETE NOIRES", THE WORLD, AND CAPE TIMES DEPUTY EDITOR GERALD SHAW, TO "PROVE" HIS POINT.

5. CROWD WAS RESPONSIVE AND ENTHUSIASTIC THROUGHOUT SPEECH BUT MOST FERVENT RESPONSES WERE TO VORSTER'S COMMENTS REGARDING WHITE PRIVILEGES AND HIS EMOTIONALLY-CHARGED DEFIADE OF OUTSIDE WORLD WITH REGARD TO NUCLEAR MATTERS (REF B) WHICH BROUGHT VIRTUALLY ENTIRE CROWD TO ITS FEET CHEERING AND APPLAUDING. ON THESE TWO ISSUES THE PRIME MINISTER OBVIOUSLY STRUCK STRONG AND RESONANT CORDS. WHITE

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